

Appl. No. 09/754,926

REMARKS

Claim 3 is amended. New claim 33 is added. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8-10 and 31-33 are pending in the application.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 8-10 and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various cited combinations of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 5,923,056; Vossen and Kern, "Thin Film Processes II"; Fujisada, JP 60-167352; and Wolf, "Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era" Vol. 1, page 5. In accordance with MPEP § 2143, a proper obviousness rejection has the following three requirements: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8-10 and 31-32 are allowable over Lee, Vossen and Kern, Fujisada and Wolf for at least the reason that the references, individually or as combined, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element in any of those claims.

As amended, independent claim 10 recites implanting a conductivity-enhancing dopant into a substrate through a layer of Al_2O_3 doped with silicon atoms. The amendment to claim 10 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 14, lines 3-19. None of the cited references or any combination thereof, discloses or suggests the claim 10 recited implanting of a conductivity enhancing dopant into the substrate through a layer of aluminum oxide doped with silicon. Accordingly, independent claim 10 is not rendered obvious by Lee, Vossen and Kern, Fujisada and Wolf and is allowable over these references.

Dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 8-9 and 31-32 are allowable over Lee, Vossen and Kern, Fujisada and Wolf for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 10.

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New claim 33 is added to present a claim which concisely recites subject matter which applicant believes to be allowable over the art of record, and which will present a limited number of issues in the event of appeal.

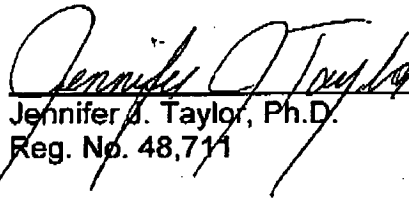
For the reasons discussed above, claims 3, 5, 6, 8-10 and 31-32 are allowable and claim 33 is believed allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of pending claims 3, 5, 6, 8-10 and 31-33 in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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